



# Whyalla Town Primary School

3-9 Walls Street, Whyalla SA 5600

Ph: 8645 8755      Email: [Meleika.Hobba66@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Meleika.Hobba66@schools.sa.edu.au)

Fax: 8645 1877      Website: [www.whytownps.sa.edu.au](http://www.whytownps.sa.edu.au)

ABN 36 440 906 946

Excellence - Respect - Integrity - Accountability



Government  
of South Australia  
Department of Education  
and Children's Services

---

## Anti-Bullying policy

## Whyalla Town Primary School

*At Whyalla Town Primary School we want all students to feel safe, therefore we take bullying seriously.*

This policy explains what bullying is, how bullying can be reported and what we will do to stop it happening.

### Rationale

- At Whyalla Town Primary school we believe all members of the school community are entitled to a safe, secure and caring environment that is free from bullying and harassment. Bullying is everyone's business and we are committed to taking action to protect students from bullying and to respond appropriately when bullying does occur. We believe that all students have the right to develop in a positive learning environment, to foster and maintain respectful relationships and the right to feel safe, secure and valued in a supportive school environment.

### Aims

- The aim of the policy is to signal to all members of the school community that we take bullying seriously and that we will intervene in a way to deal with incidents of bullying in the school in a timely and consistent manner. The policy will reinforce within the school community what bullying is and to ensure that that all reported incidents of bullying are followed up appropriately and that support is given to all persons involved. The Anti-Bullying Policy supports the School Behaviour Management Policy.

### At WTPS we believe

- Bullying is everyone's business
- Bullying is the systematic abuse of power
- Bullying can involve violence
- Everyone has the right to be safe so they can learn and have fun
- We can help ourselves to feel safe by talking to people we trust
- We care for and help others to be safe

- Bullying is not simply about difference. It may occur because of people's inability to accept and value difference
- Bullying is any form of discriminatory behaviour including racial or sexual harassment
- We all have a responsibility to help stop bullying.

Students, staff, parents and carers at Whyalla Town Primary School have the right to be in an environment free of bullying and (if bullied) to be provided with help and support.

Students, staff, parents and carers at Whyalla Town Primary School have a responsibility to abstain personally from bullying others in any way, and to actively seek to stop bullying when it occurs.

### **A definition of bullying**

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical or social behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyber-bullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies. BULLYING IS HARMFUL.

Bullying in any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders.

Conflict or fights between equals and single incidents are not regarded as bullying.

Examples of bullying are but not limited to:

#### ***Physical:***

- pushing, touching, grabbing, looks, stares, facial expressions, gestures, spitting, taking or damaging property, repeatedly kicking or hitting.

#### ***Verbal or written:***

- spoken or written insults, threats, suggestive comments, teasing, name-calling, unfair criticism, spreading rumours.
- **Cyberbullying** through email, voice and text messaging, social networking sites, photographic and video images.

#### ***Social:***

- forming groups to leave out, ignore and disrespect; influencing, encouraging or organising someone else to be involved in any type of bullying
- Using pictures, tags or words
- Damaging, removing or hiding belongings of others
- Excluding or isolating someone on purpose
- Teasing or name calling
- Demands for money or possessions
- Sexual or racial harassment
- Any form of discriminatory behaviour: sexual, racial or disability.

### **Some signs that a student may be being bullied are:**

- Damaged or ripped clothes
- Vague headaches or stomach aches
- Refusal to go to school
- Asking for extra pocket money or food
- Tearfulness, anxiety or difficulty sleeping
- Hiding information on mobile phones, emails or in comments on their social networking pages.

## **What students can do about bullying:**

If you are bullied or you know someone who is being bullied it is your responsibility to report it.

### **Who to report to**

- Report the bullying to a trusted adult as soon as possible. This person can be an SSO, teacher, parent, carer, relative etc.

### **How to report:**

- Immediately tell the teacher or the trusted adult where the bullying happened, how often it has happened and what you have done to try to stop it happening.
- Complete the bullying reporting slip in your classroom and give to your teacher.

### **When to report:**

- Report the bullying as soon as it happens, do not ignore it. When bullying is ignored it may get worse.
- Persist until the situation is resolved. Keep reporting.

### **Anti-Bullying Strategies:**

**Be assertive:** Stand up for yourself in a positive way. If you look confident when you respond, the person who is bullying will know you mean what you say.

*"I don't think the comments you're making are funny"* **Report this behaviour to your trusted adult.**

**Avoid the situation:** Stay away from the people who bully you or the place where it happens. Find ways to be around more positive people, i.e. join lunch time activities. **Report this behaviour to your trusted adult.**

**Ignore the bullying:** Walk away and use positive self-talk to help boost your confidence. **Report this behaviour to your trusted adult.**

**Ask for help:** When other strategies you have tried are not working or you feel you cannot deal with situations yourself, you should ask for help. Asking for help is not dobbing.

**Persist** in reporting until the situation is resolved.

## **What we do about incidents of bullying**

- Follow the school's anti bullying process
- We will listen and talk to the person who has been bullied and the person who has bullied others
- The severity and seriousness of the bullying will be assessed and appropriate action taken. This may include informal talks, letters sent home, counselling, time out, restricted play, interviews with parents and suspension or exclusion (Consequences may vary depending on what happened)
- We will seek to help everyone involved to improve their relationship with each other
- Support the person who has been bullied or the person using bullying behaviour
- Teachers will upload all bullying report forms to our data base and leadership will track reports entered.
- Leadership will keep detailed notes around conversations and outcomes of reported bullying incidents.

It is important to note that the process will change for each situation. Each person is different and each occurrence of bullying is different.

## **What does a bully free environment look like?**

- Students helping each other and including others in activities
- Students feeling safe to learn in an environment where it is okay to take risks
- Students helping each other by showing respect
- Students trusting their friends to display honesty at all times
- Everyone's values and opinions are respected, valued and listened to.

## **What can up standers do?**

An up stander is someone who sees the bullying or knows that it is happening to someone else and will do something to stop it. If you see someone being bullied you could:

- Ask a teacher or support person for help
- Let the person displaying bullying behaviour know what they are doing is bullying
- Refuse to join in with the person who is bullying and walk away
- Support the person who is being bullied. Walk up to them and invite them to come play with you and your friends
- **Report any of the above behaviours to your trusted adult.**

## **What we do at Whyalla Town Primary School to reduce bullying**

At Whyalla Town Primary School we use **prevention, intervention** and **post-intervention** strategies.

### **Prevention strategies include:**

- Using the curriculum to teach students about civics, respectful relationships and citizenship
- Teaching students about protective behaviours, conflict resolution and problem solving
- Involvement in the National Day of Action Against Bullying
- Promotion of Anti-bullying messages to whole school at assembly each term
- Positive primers implemented across the classrooms F-6 during wellbeing care group
- Clear class, yard rules and consequences negotiated with students
- Implementation of the Child Protection Curriculum R-6
- Wellbeing Care Group and daily morning circle
- Promoting wellbeing, resilience and diversity through respect, friendship and fun in the health curriculum
- Implementation of a range of programmes by external providers
- Developing policies which promote student safety and co-operation
- Providing professional development for staff.

### **Intervention strategies include:**

- Supporting and assisting students who have been involved in bullying (victims and perpetrators)
- Talking with parents or care-givers about the situation
- Having logical consequences in place for those who bully others
- Empowering students to be proactive and to act against bullying
- Teaching students proactive strategies for being up standers
- All staff are supported to deal with bullying when the need arises
- Plans developed to support students to develop skills and strategies to interact positively with others
- Targeted learning implemented such as Calm Kids Central and What's the Buzz to build student capacity to deal with and understand the impact of bullying
- Speaking with the school's Student Wellbeing Leader/ Pastoral Care Worker.

### Post-intervention strategies include:

- Monitoring the situation between the students to ensure their safety and wellbeing are maintained
- Reviewing our yard duty procedures to ensure they are effective
- Reviewing and evaluating behaviour policy and codes
- Reviewing learning programmes to gauge the effectiveness and transference of learning.
- Talking with parents about strategies
- Reviewing existing policies to make sure they are effective, in particular behaviour management and yard policies.

### Communication and review

- Consultation has occurred with:
- Students through meeting with student leaders (SRC) to discuss and seek feedback on the policy
- The broader community by invitation for feedback published in our school newsletter and with consultation with parent members of our Governing Council.
- Staff through consultation to seek feedback on the policy.
- The policy is accessible via the school website ([School Policies & Procedures - WTPS \(whytownps.sa.edu.au\)](https://www.whytownps.sa.edu.au)).
- This policy is reviewed on a 3 year review cycle.
- **This policy was last ratified by Governing Council in 2024**